

Who We Are & Why We Write

- For nearly 20 years, Piknik Elektronik has built free, citizen-led, independent Open Airs in Brussels
- We initiated this format
- We trained and retained audiences
- We proved quality culture accessible to everyone is possible

20 Years

Building free, independent Open Airs

Initiators

Pioneered the Open Air format

Audiences

Trained & retained over decades

Quality

Culture accessible to everyone

2025 refusal: not an isolated incident

- In 2025, the City of Brussels refused us Place Poelaert
- After two decades of volunteer work and love for the city, we can be erased to make room for paid, closed events
- Events run with no woman and no person from a minority leading projects
- “A few associations” invited for the photo: subcontracted for an afternoon as diversity alibi

2025

Place Poelaert
Refused

Replaced by paid events

0

Women
Leaders

0

Minority
Leaders

"Diversity Alibi"

A **documented** mechanism



2017

Authorization requests delayed even more systematically since 2017



Permanent uncertainty on our dates



Others get weekends guaranteed months in advance



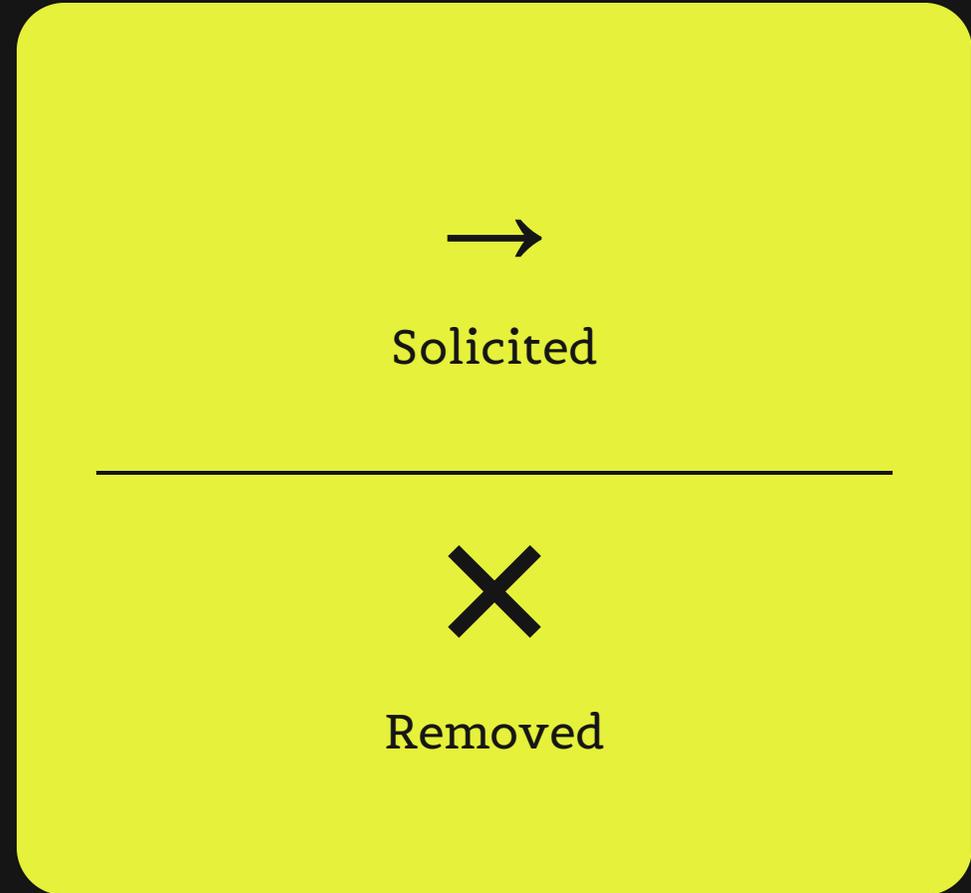
“Facade diversity”: minorities and women invited as subcontractors, never as decision-makers

Progressive Removal from Public Spaces

Independent associations like ours are solicited by BME or the BBN president for our expertise, our audience, and our legitimacy.

Then, we are gradually removed from spaces in favor of the same privileged operators.

A handful of the same actors lock access to public space, creating a closed system that excludes genuine independent voices.



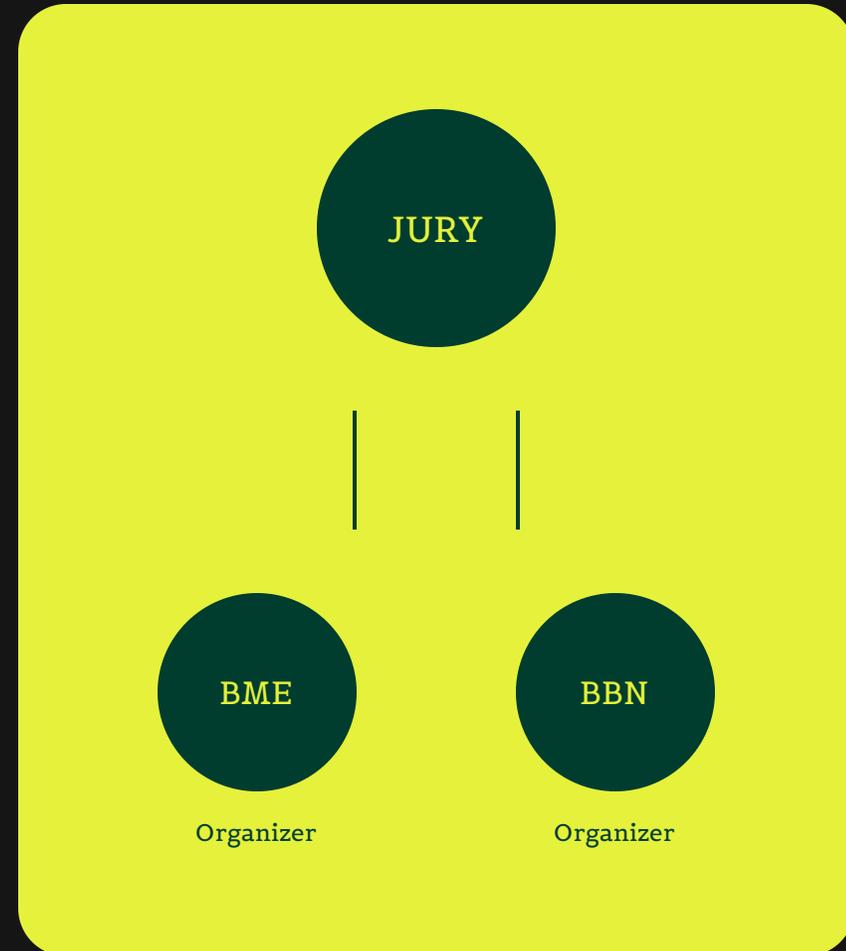
Who Sits Where (and Why It Matters)

Brussels Major Events (BME) and Brussels by Night (BBN) sit on juries while organizing their own events.

This is a concentration of powers that the City allows to settle.

When the same actors who compete for public spaces also decide who gets access to those spaces, the system is fundamentally compromised.

This structural conflict of interest undermines fair competition and transparent governance.



2026 Escalation

This year, the situation has become even more discriminatory. The BME and BBN festival receives guaranteed dates at the end of August each year, along with six prime locations for their call for projects.

Now, they also want to be part of the jury—an opaque and homogeneous jury that would decide who runs all the summer Open Airs on these locations in 1000 Brussels.

This creates an impossible conflict of interest: our direct competitors would be judging our applications and those of other independent collectives.

Guaranteed Privileges

BME & BBN festival gets end of August guaranteed each year plus six locations for their call for projects

Jury Control

Now they also want to be part of the jury—an opaque and homogeneous body deciding who runs all summer Open Airs

Conflict of Interest

Our direct competitors would judge applications for all summer Open Airs on these locations in 1000 Brussels

Why we refuse to participate

- ◆ We refuse to participate while conflicts of interest and unfair competition reign
- ◆ We refuse competitors deciding selection outcomes via opaque processes

Women Do It Better Festival 2026

We propose a structural alternative rather than denouncing without acting.



Strategic Locations

- Place Poelaert
- Place d'Espagne
- Congrès
- Vaux Hall



Equal Conditions

- Same visibility
- Same financial means
- Same stability in authorizations



Date & Frequency

DATE

Saturday 25 July 2026

FREQUENCY

Annual, last Saturday of July

From organizers to mentors

- For this date, we become supporters and trainers rather than organizers
- We put 19 years of Open Air experience at the service of other collectives to protect them from current drifts
- The urgency: prevent public space from becoming a market reserved for a few networks/elites or a subcontracting field used as alibi
- Public space should be public first, accessible to the maximum number of citizens



Legal & Fair Selection Principles



Not opaque juries where competitors sit and decide



Not institutionalized conflicts of interest



Not facade diversity where minorities are invited for the photo



INSTEAD

**Serious,
Transparent,
Equitable
Work**

The Proposed Model

01 Total transparency

A public WebApp to follow each selection step, each criterion, each decision; any citizen, elected official, or journalist can verify fairness.

02 Truly inclusive leadership

Women and people from minorities leading projects; no subcontracting; decision-makers.

03 Open governance

An independent jury for other summer Open Aairs; no institutional actor (BME) and no economic actor (BBN); compartmentalized by competencies; strict IP protection for candidates.

04 Stronger support

Info sessions, tutorials, support video-calls, and collaboration proposals between complementary collectives; we do not select, we help grow.

Contribution and requirements

What we bring

- ✓ 19 years of field experience
- ✓ Unquestionable citizen legitimacy
- ✓ A network of collectives ready to collaborate
- ✓ A transparent method the City can reproduce for these selections

What we demand in return

- The 4 requested locations
- A fixed annual date (25 July 2026 and each last weekend of July)
- The same means as the BOAF
- Operators removed from summer Open Air juries (BME, BBN)
- A clear, motivated response—not administrative silence

Gagnant-Gagnant

For the City

- Turn legitimate criticism into success
- Show Brussels is pioneering real inclusion
- Gain transparent process extendable to other calls for projects
- Prove you can listen

For Us

- Protect collectives crushed by current system
- Finally work with stability

We are ready—and we will not drop this

- Since 2017: our requests ignored, dates delayed, spaces eroded; the system left in place is hostile to us
- We documented each injustice with evidence; we spoke to press and citizens

•  On 18 Nov 2025, we filed two date requests for Piknik Elektronik 2026 (Bois de la Cambre) and received no reply to date; we ask for a response as soon as possible

- If ignored again: we will pursue all necessary steps to defend our place in this city
- Because 19 years of work cannot be erased; public space belongs to everyone; we are ready

1.1

Collective Info Session

Before applications open. Explaining selection criteria, technical and administrative constraints, programming expectations, and the precise calendar. Open to all (in-person and online).

1.2

Complete Accessible Tutorial

Step-by-step guide for a solid dossier. Includes checklists (technical, budget, communication, security), examples of successful dossiers (anonymized), and budget & planning templates.

1.3

Support Video-Calls

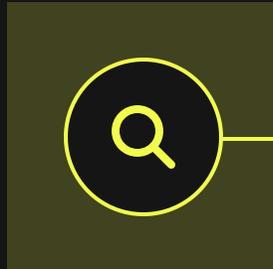
During submission period. To answer specific questions, help structure projects, reassure first-time applicants, and explain complex technical aspects.

Reinforced Candidate Support

Why?

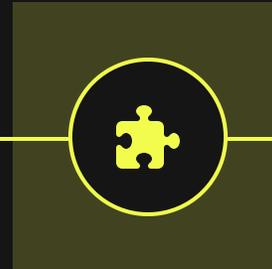
The current system favors those who already know how it works. We want to equalize chances.

Proposed collaborations



1.4 Analyze

After receiving applications, we analyze submitted projects



Identify

If we identify complementary projects not already connected



Propose

We propose collaboration

EXAMPLE

Strong artistic idea + limited technical experience

paired with

Strong technical experience + less developed programming

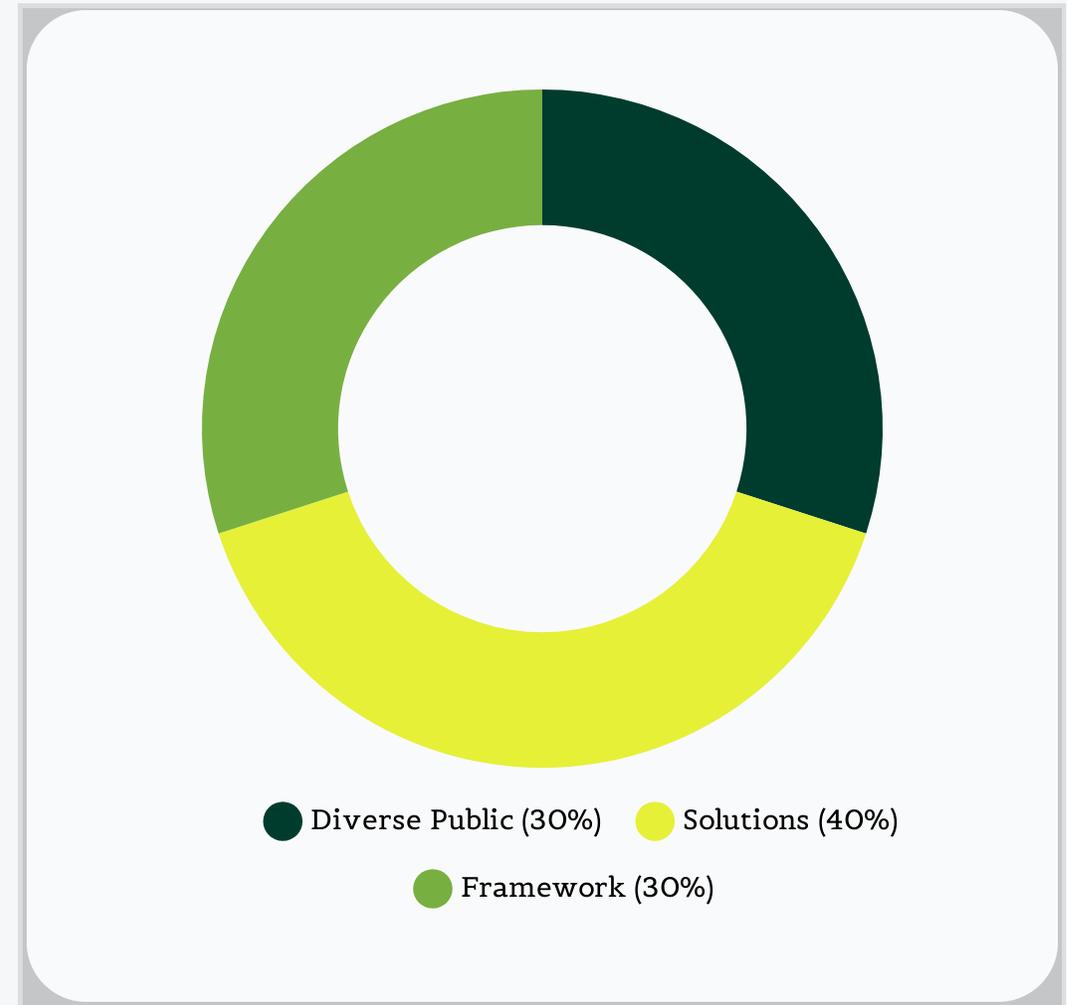
"We impose nothing; we propose; final decision remains theirs"

Competency-Based Jury System

Core Idea

A jury by competencies; each aspect judged by experts of that domain.

- **Section 1 (30%)**
Ability to attract a diverse public
- **Section 2 (40%)** **Most Important**
Ability to find solutions
- **Section 3 (30%)**
Respect of framework & responsibility



Jury Members by Section

(Total 9)



9

Total Jurors

Section 1 – Public diversity

3 people

- Expert in audience sociology or cultural mediation
- Representative of local association (community house / neighborhood cultural center)
- One Piknik Elektronik voice

Section 2 – Ability to find solutions

3 people

- Former organizer (Dj Pierre, Deg, Manga, etc.)
- “Pedagogue” technical expert (can explain, not just judge)
- One Piknik Elektronik voice

Section 3 – Framework & responsibility

3 people

- City representative (public tranquility)
- Night Council representative
- One Piknik Elektronik voice

How the Final Score Is Computed

Step 1: Individual Scoring

Each juror scores the project out of 10 points within their section

Step 2: Section Average

Calculate average per section: sum of 3 juror scores divided by 3

$$\text{Average} = (\text{Score}_1 + \text{Score}_2 + \text{Score}_3) \div 3$$

Step 3: Apply Weighting

Multiply each section average by its weight:

- Section 1 average \times 30%
- Section 2 average \times 40%
- Section 3 average \times 30%

Step 4: Final Score

Sum the three weighted results to get the final score

$$\text{Final} = (S1 \times 0.3) + (S2 \times 0.4) + (S3 \times 0.3)$$

Calculation Flow

3 Jurors Score (0-10)



Section Average



\times Weight (30/40/30%)



Weighted Score

Example

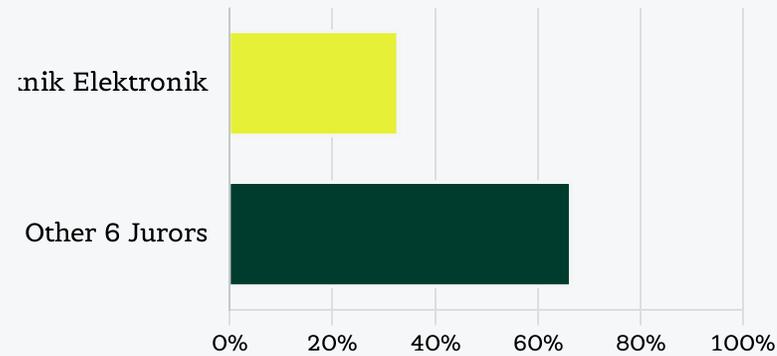
$$S1: (8+7+9) \div 3 = 8.0 \times 0.3 = 2.4$$

$$S2: (9+8+9) \div 3 = 8.7 \times 0.4 = 3.5$$

$$S3: (7+8+8) \div 3 = 7.7 \times 0.3 = 2.3$$

$$\text{Final Score} = 8.2/10$$

Piknik's Real Influence



Piknik has one voice in each section = one third of voices per section.

In final score terms:

- Section 1 (30%): Piknik = $1/3$ = **10% of final score**
- Section 2 (40%): Piknik = $1/3$ = **13.2% of final score**
- Section 3 (30%): Piknik = $1/3$ = **10% of final score**

Total weight of Piknik: 33.2% of final decision

The six other jurors together: 66.8%

Therefore we can **influence, not impose** — a project must convince beyond our voices.